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A Way of Thinking

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DR. ALBERT BURKE WAS SEEN ON THE TELEVISION  
SCREEN IN THE STUDIO.

DR. BURKE: "Sign of the time--February, 1956. Nikita Khrushchev, rolling with the Soviet Union's third revolution, in his important speech to the 20th Congress of the Communist party, during which he accused the past leader of that country--Stalin--of the most serious crimes against the Russian people. That speech grew out of the (Borkuta?) Rebellion and others like it at about the same time, which made crystal clear to the Soviet Union's new leaders that the road to a communist future for the world could not be travelled Stalin's way. That way was finished, the new Soviet leader told the 20th party Congress. It was finished because Russia in 1953 was not the Russia Stalin had taken over in 1929, though he was still running it pretty much the same way.

"Labor camps filled with untrained and illiterate workers and peasants who were jailed for political or any other reason, when the Soviet Union was an eighth rate industrial power was a very different matter than labor camps filled with trained and educated technicians, scientists, engineers, and scholars when the Soviet Union had become the second most powerful industrial nation, as it was when the Borkuta Rebellion took place. After the heavy manpower losses of World War II the USSR needed every trained and educated person it could get to push for its goal of a communist world, and there were too many of such people in those labor camps. By 1953 Stalin's way of doing things had become deadly dangerous to the USSR and to its goals, which is why there was quite a bit of talk at the time Stalin died that he was put to death, just to get him out of the way.

"Well whether that was fact or fancy, Stalin's death marked the start of the third Soviet revolution, as that country's leaders made great changes in the way they would lead the world down their road to communism, a road which last year led right into this place, with a revolutionary abgan that could easily have every old-line Bolshevik whirling in his final resting place. This is GUM, the showpiece, government owned department store in Moscow.

FILM CLIP WAS SHOWN OF THE DEPARTMENT STORE.

"As you see it there, and as quite a few American tourists to the Soviet Union the past few years have seen it, there isn't much to suggest that since last year one of the most revolutionary of all revolutionary acts in the history of the USSR has been taking place here. What has been taking place centers on some small papers and cards, with which today's Moscovite can walk into GUM, and a number of other stores, buy what he wants, turn around and walk out, without paying a cent--that is a kopek--all he has to do is hand over his card and utter the revolutionary words 'charge it.' The installment plan has come to the Soviet Union, and that fact is one of the most revealing things about life today in at least the larger cities of that country. Of all the things that have happened there in recent years, including Sputniks, moon probes and man-space shoots, these people are on the verge of the good life they've been promised for years by their communist leaders. There are people in those crowds who can remember when there was so

CPYRGHT

little of everything, practically everything was rationed--so many liters of milk a day, so many eggs a week, so much meat a month, a pair of shoes every six months, a suit or a dress every year. But that was yesterday. Today prices are still high, but there are now enough radios, television sets, cameras, sewing machines, and things of that kind being manufactured to push the Soviet trade organization into taking over the completely capitalistic way of doing business on the cuff by credit.

"Now this point may not seem like much point to most of you, but to anyone who has followed the ins and outs of Soviet thinking over the years, this matter of a credit system in a communist Russia seems almost preposterous, just plain ridiculous. Why for years some of the best political writers and thinkers in the Soviet Union blasted every capitalistic economy, but us particularly, for our credit system of buying things. That system was branched as a way to extort money from the working people, a way to enslave them by getting control of their future earnings, and only capitalists could be guilty of such things--that is before last year. Since last year billions of rubles have apparently been extorted from willing Soviet citizens clear across that country. But the point here is that this is not preposterous or ridiculous. It's a sign of our time in our 1960's, that Americans in particular would do very well to read very carefully, and understand for what it is, it's the latest evidence of the revolution that began as the reaction to a revolt in a slave labor camp in 1953, and it reaches all the way to mechanical soda pop and ice cream dispensers around the yard of the Kremlin today in Moscow. Well last year American and Russian tourists rubbed shoulders as they gawked from building to building. A very few years ago they could have been shot if they'd been caught in that same yard. And it is the sign of the times that this man tried to explain to a joint Congressional investigating committee in Washington several years ago, when the nation was briefly roused to some concern about a topic called economic growth.

"At that time, Mr. Allen Dulles, who headed our CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, told that committee that, and I quote, "The gap between the American and Soviet economies will be dangerously narrowed by 1970." Mr. Dulles using the information gathered by his agency, warned that the Soviet Union's rate of economic growth was several times greater than ours, and this he said should have very sober implications for every American interested in the future of a free America, based on our way of doing things.

"Well since the time of that meeting there has been an economic free-for-all among the experts who have questioned and hassled and belittled and bemused the subject of economic growth down to a confused absurdity. But before that happened, what Mr. Dulles and a number of economists who supported him, were talking about, openly and bluntly, and publicly on one of the very few occasions that this has been done, what they were talking about was a very different kind of Soviet Union than the public knows about to this day. What they were talking about were the things that had been happening in the USSR to explain how and why a credit system could go into effect to move goods that are beginning to crowd shelves in stores all over that country. What Mr. Dulles tried to discuss before that committee was then, as it is now, the biggest unreported, undiscussed challenge facing this nation today, largely unreported in our press, largely not discussed by our political leaders because of just plain fear on the one hand, fear of disturbing the comfortable beliefs of a comfortable people, and because it's easier to ignore the signs of our times on the other hand, that is it's easier to live with the comfortable stereotype of a Russia filled with atheists, who are unhappy, on collective farms, and in government owned factories, and who are fearful and sick of their communist yoke, and who somehow just can't be as good with hammers and screwdrivers and slide rules and test tubes as so many world headlines have been suggesting they are lately.

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"How to explain those headlines? Well, if they're not fakes, and quite a few of our top experts claim that most of the things the Soviet Union has done lately are fakes--if they're not fakes, then it's those captured German scientists who are doing the real work on everything from Sputnik to Vostov. Well this is a stereotype. It's comfortable, and it's also deadly dangerous to our future as a free people because anyone peddling that kind of comfortable pap, in face of the realities men like Allen Dulles have tried to bring to the attention of the public for years--anyone peddling that pap about today's Soviet Union is dangerous, because there is no such country, there are no such people, there is no such economy--not any more--certainly not since the lesson of the Borkuta Rebellion. And we can't defend ourselves against what the Soviet Union really is--we can't compete with what the Soviet Union can and is doing in the world, until we take a good long look at what is really going on in that country. Because the simple fact is, that a USSR under a Khrushchev who isn't afraid to leave the country for fear that there will be a revolution while he's gone, where soda pop and ice cream dispensers have replaced armed guards around the Kremlin, where credit cards in the stores and traffic jams in the streets are getting to be the rule--that kind of a Soviet Union is a much greater, more serious threat to our future as a free people, doing things our way, than any comfortable stereotype of a godless, fear ridden, starving Russia could ever be.

"Godless the Soviet leaders certainly are, but this has not prevented their using very effectively and successfully the same science and technology we use to become the world's leading industrial nation. In a particularly important way, since the start of the third Soviet revolution in 1953, they've put that science and technology to work as the new way to travel the road to a communist future for the world. Starting here, in places like (Bagovatz?) in the central Asian republic of Uzbekistan, where people have lived in the same ways and have had the same problems as hundreds of millions of peoples beyond Soviet borders in Asia. From these Soviet industrial places come the non-Russian Soviet citizens who are building roads, dams, irrigation systems and factories all over Asia and beyond. Those people are weapons of economic competition, weapons fully as effective as the guns, tanks, planes, and nuclear bombs coming out of those factories.

"Economic competition--one of the most neglected signs of our times, as we'll get to this in a moment...

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"Sign of the times--the 1960's--the place, a Japanese port, where a fairly important event is taking place. A Soviet freighter is unloading, among other things a shipment of wheat, and it was fairly important because we spent a great deal of time and effort developing a market for American wheat in Japan, and until this event took place, we haven't had much competition there.

A FILM CLIP WAS SHOWN OF THE JAPANESE HARBOR.

"We had worked hard to convince the Japanese that imported wheat from us was better for them than the rice they'd been importing from some places like Burma. And because we had so much surplus wheat at home, we gave the Japanese a good buy. But the Soviet Union gave them a better one. The undercut our offer. Economic competition for the Japanese wheat market began last year. While that freighter was unloading wheat in Japan, another Soviet freighter was loading that rice Burma hadn't been able to sell to

CPYRGHT

Japan the past few years, as we went over this problem in another session some time back. The USSR had agreed to take that rice off Burma's hands, in return for industrial machinery, buses, agricultural machinery, textiles, and so on, things the Burmese would normally have been able to buy from us. Now the USSR didn't want that rice--it's not exactly a favorite Russian food, but it did have an important use for it. You see there was a serious food shortage off in India, and Indonesia needed rice too, and that Soviet freighter was headed for ports in those two countries. India would use part of the 100,000,000-dollar credit the USSR had given it last year in order to pay for it. Other Russian traders were busy in other ports too. One of them pulled into the harbor off Montivideo, Uruguay, to take on anotherload of that country's main export, which happens to be wool.

"We used to buy a lot of wool from Uruguay, but now we make our sweaters and our clothing out of synthetic fibers like orlon, dacron, and the rest. The money we used to spend in trade with Uruguay now goes to American chemical firms like Monsanto and Dupont, and so today the Soviet Union has become the largest buyer of wool from this South American country, in return for Soviet built machinery for industry and agriculture, and buses and textiles, and so on, which the Uruguayans without dollars have not been able to buy from us. With our attention fixed on the USSR's political foothold in South American through Cuba, for example, and friendly government in British Guinea, we haven't been as concerned about the equally important economic foothold that activity in Uruguay means south of our borders.

"Let's choose another place--Brazil is to be visited by Soviet freighters, loading coffee under the terms of a trade agreement. For that important Brazilian product, the USSR will exchange the same industrial goods, to which add this footnote. That move in Brazil is the result of an economic survey carried out by that country back in 1958 which showed that as things were going then, the Russian market for its products could be as large and larger than the American market, and so that country's trade policies were to be shaped accordingly, the report said. As things shape up in this kind of competition now, a deadly kind of competition. Russia's industrial capacity has grown to the point where it can place enough of such things as high quality aluminum on the world's markets whenever it wants to, to force American and Canadian producers to fight hard for their lives in those markets, as back in 1958 the USSR did just that, forcing very sharp price reductions that hit American and Canadian producers hard. Soviet production of tin and manganese, among other things, is now great enough to effect world markets for those items, and has been effecting world markets. And backing up that kind of competition are 6,000 Soviet technicians, many of them non-Russian Soviet technicians from places like Bagovatz in Soviet Uzbekistan, who are building mills in India, roads and hospitals in Afghanistan, irrigation systems in Syria and Iraq, textile factories in Egypt and Indonesia. And all of this is a long way removed from the kind of country Russia was, and what it could do before the Borkuta Rebellion, sparked the third Soviet revolution in 1953, and it's a long way removed from the kind of country the USSR intends to be, and is preparing itself to be eight to ten years from now, as during his official visit to this country in 1959, Mr. Khrushchev made that quite clear in his final TV address to this nation before he headed home.

"What the Soviet Union intends is that it be the leading power in a world where there will simply be no room for our political system, in which our military striking power and scientific know-how will be inferior to that of the Soviet Union, and this man is convinced that this will be possible without firing a single missile, without blowing off a single hydrogen bomb, without wasting a bullet in a major war, according to the ideas stated on this subject by this man, back in November, 1920 in a speech

CPYRGHT

to the third all-union conference of trade unions in Moscow about what he considered to be the most effective blueprint for the eventual triumph of communism in the world.

FILM CLIP OF A RUSSIAN MAN DELIVERING A  
SPEECH.

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"(Svedley Entrotski?) who you saw there a moment ago, some years before he became one of the statistics of men who were killed by the late dictator, Stalin. The victory of communism, he said, will not come on the battlefield in war--it will come in the arena where capitalism and imperialism can be mortally wounded, and this is in the markets of the world. Words which spell out a very different kind of threat to our future, a much more serious threat to our future than until now we have been prepared to fight. And they're words mixed with figures, about those terms 'economic growth' that Allen Dulles spoke to that committee about several years ago, and a number of our economists have tried to interest the public about, since that time. Throughout most of the world this minute, the battle lines for the survival of our way of life are drawn in statistics of industrial production, in statistics of national income, statistics of national products, all of it economic information that is poorly reported, and very little read by an American public quite willing and prepared to fight the less important part of a communist threat.

"The important part of the threat of communism, has for the most part, not yet been faced by the people who are most involved in facing it, this nation's businessmen and industrialists, and their problem is how can our economic system, based as it is on the idea of profit, a fair return for investment, how can it meet the Soviet economic weapon in the world's markets? Their problem is how do we organize a non military defense against that weapon, as a matter of fact we faced it back during the late 1930's, when the USSR flooded the world markets with cheap lumber, pushing our lumber industry and much of the rest of the world's lumber industries right up against the wall. It was so bad that a special conference was called in Washington to face that problem, when it was only a taste of the problem that can come, as the Soviet Union's economic growth has made this possible right now.

"Behind the Soviet Union's economic activities around the world is a plan to channel more and more of the world's economy through the Soviet bloc of nations. Its foreign aid you see, makes the receiving country dependent on the Soviet bloc's economy, by those goods and services that are sold to them that require replacement parts and maintenance, for one thing; through the USSR too, the Burmese rice reached India and Indonesia in that example given awhile back. Neither of these countries were able to buy it alone, but it was possible through the Soviet Union's aid.

"Now how do we face this communist challenge, to which we have no real answer at this point? Well, in part at least, we can do this by a bit more sign reading, after this short break.

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"Sign of the times, the 1960's. According to Sir John (Cotcroft?) of Britain, one of the world's most respected names in basic science and scientific research, the heart of Mr. Khrushchev's third revolution is here in the classrooms and laboratories of the Soviet Union. This is the USSR's continuing investment in its future, which has not reached its peak, but now turns out about three scientifically trained persons for every one we turn out of our classrooms and laboratories, and the most alarming

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thing about this, Sir John said recently is that America is now enjoying the peak of its talent in the sciences, which had been made possible by the nation's investment in its service men after World War II through the GI Bill. But that American program was not kept up, we are not making an equivalent investment in our future brainpower now, at the very time the Soviet Union's investment is increasing to meet that country's growing economic plans to dominate world markets, which leads to possibly the most disturbing sign of our time. On July 31, of 1961, in the offices of a New York patent development company which was authorized by the Soviet Union to license or sell some of its latest developments in electronics, chemicals, drugs, metalurgy, and a number of other fields. The reports of that session in a national news magazine made it clear that, and I quote, 'There were a lot of things the Americans were excited about because those Russian ideas were very advanced.' unquote.

"Until very recently it was the very advanced ideas that came out of our science and technology that explained our advanced standing in the markets of the world. There will be no quicker way to lose the competition now under way to control world markets between communist and the non-communist blocs than to let the quality of our ideas fall behind those of the USSR, and this can happen. If we fail to read that sign of our time in that New York patent office correctly.

"Which brings us to the crux of the problem laid out in this session. Sign reading is an individual matter in this country, and so is decision making. A few men in the Soviet Union read the signs and make the decisions, but a great many people in this country must read the signs and make the decisions that will provide for our survival in the face of these problems. And that's it for tonight. Thank you for being with us, and good night."